TAB NEW BOOK NEWS

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FOR REVIEW PURPOSES

Title: Packet Radio (TAB BOOK No. 1345)

Authors: Robert Rouleau, VE2PY, and Ian Hodgson, VE2BEN

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AN AMAZING NEW CONCEPT IN HIGH-SPEED RADIO COMMUNICATIONS!

Imagine being able to shop, pay bills, even receive a morning newspaper through a home computer terminal! It may not be as far-fetched, or as far away as some think! And the key to making this computer age concept a reality will, more than likely, be *packet radio!* Here's a complete short-course on the newest and most exciting facet of radio communications . . . all the info any amateur radio enthusiast *or* computerist needs to understand the principles and potentials of this innovative technique for high-speed, multi-user access to data resources.

Presented in easy-to-read, non-technical format, this comprehensive sourcebook shows how packet radio can condense the time required for data exchange to as little as a fraction of a second. With this system, information is broken down into blocks of digitally encoded signals (packets) and transmitted at specific band rates to be received, stored, and displayed on a computer terminal. From an explanation of digital signals, the binary number system, and the hexadecimal (hex) system to the American Standard Code for Information Exchange (ASCII) and the uses of the Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter (UART) chip, the authors provide all the foundations for understanding packet radio applications.

There's data on resource sharing via multiplexing—the concept for "packet switching" and the protocols used for packet systems, even the actual techniques used to transmit the packets from one station to another. Throughput (the amount of data which can be handled in a given period of time) and delay (the time the system needs to respond to a given signal) are fully explored.

There's a complete section devoted to microcomputers and peripherals with a listing of the specific equipment needed to get started in packet radio. Both hardware and software are covered, and there's a comparison of different computer languages included, too. Then, there's a look at the Montreal Packet Net. This amateur radio operation was started in 1978, and here are full specifics on the protocols now being used by the network. Plus, there's a full chapter that considers the future potential for packet radio. Some of the most exciting of these prospects: the digital transmission of graphics (a concept already in the experimental stage) and satellite use of packet radio for greater efficiency in the use of satellite frequencies.

From start to finish, this state-of-the-art examination of packet radio provides a fascinating look into a new world of radio communications that could affect basic lifestyles in years to come!

ABOUT THE AUTHORS: Robert Rouleau, VE2PY, and Ian Hodgson, VE2BEN, are experienced amateur radio enthusiasts and both have been involved in Canadian packet radio experiments. They both live in Quebec, Canada—Rouleau in Montreal and Hodgson in Dorval.

CONTENTS: Some Technical Fundamentals—Resource Sharing Via Multiplexing—Elements of Protocols—Packets Via Radio—Throughput and Delay—The Aloha Net—Microcomputers and Peripherals—The MP-Net—Software and Hardware—What Next?—Glossary—Appendix—Index.

304 pps., 79 illus.

Tearsheets of your review will be appreciated. Thank you.